

## Have you checked your boat and trailer for zebra mussels?

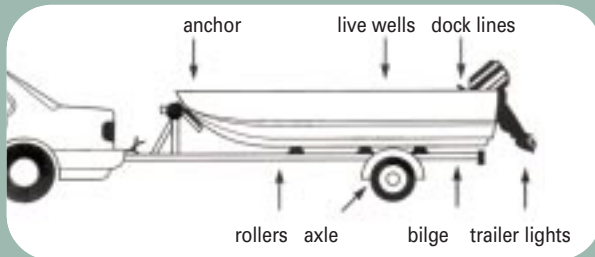
If you have used your boat, inflatable or personal watercraft in infested waters (see map), you could be carrying zebra mussels.

**TRAILERING WEST?**

## YOUR HELP IS NEEDED TO ZAP THE ZEBRA!

### Before leaving infested waters:

- **Look for adult zebra mussels** on your boat and trailer. Check all underwater fittings and equipment. (See diagram below.)
- **Remove all visible mussels** and plants from your boat and trailer and put in a trash can.
- **Feel your boat's hull.** A rough or gritty surface may mean that young zebra mussels are present.
- **Wipe all gritty areas** with a paper towel or disposable cloth. Better yet, completely wash the hull on its way out of the water and rub down gritty areas, or spray with hot water. Put towels in garbage.
- **Drain all water** from your boat and equipment, including bilges, live wells, bait buckets, and coolers.



### For personal watercraft:

While in shallow water, and with the engine off, remove any plants from the water-intake area and steering nozzle. Once the watercraft is on the trailer, run engine for 5-10 seconds to blow out excess water and plants. Before leaving area, check again for any plants or animals and remove.

## Zebra mussels are bad news for boaters. They can:

- **ruin your engine** by blocking the cooling system — causing overheating.
- **increase drag** on the bottom of your boat, reducing speed and wasting fuel.
- **jam steering equipment** or the centerboard wells on sailboats.
- **require scraping and repainting** of boat bottoms.
- **overwhelm local waters** and cover beaches with thousands of broken shells with sharp edges — making these areas unpleasant and smelly!



**By taking the steps outlined in this brochure,** you can stop the spread of zebra mussels and nuisance plants such as Eurasian watermilfoil and hydrilla that have been introduced to our waters and harm native plants and animals.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

CALL TOLL FREE 1-877-STOP-ANS (1-877-786-7267)

ON THE WORLDWIDE WEB <http://ANSTaskForce.gov>



**DEVELOPMENT:** BOAT/U.S. Clean Water Trust • **DESIGN:** ION Media DC • **ILLUSTRATION:** Steve Raskin and Rob Myers • **PHOTOS:** *Weeds on Boat Trailer* - Ladd Johnson, NOAA/Great Lakes Environmental Research Laboratory • *Crayfish* - GLSGN Exotic Species Laboratory, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources • *Mussels on Engine* - Steve Krynock • *Cutaway of Pipe* - Don Schloesser, Great Lakes Science Center, National Biological Service • *Zebra Mussels with Pencil* - Michel Istaphanous • **MAP:** U.S. Geological Survey, 1998 • **TRAILER DIAGRAM:** Minnesota Sea Grant



# ZAP THE ZEBRA

**The 100th Meridian Initiative**  
to prevent the westward spread of zebra mussels



## The zebra mussel . .

- **damages** boat engines.
- **threatens** native mussels, fish and wildlife by consuming available food and smothering native mussels.
- **costs taxpayers** millions of dollars by clogging power plant and public water intakes and pipes. (See photo below.)



**YOU CAN ZAP THE ZEBRA MUSSEL AND STOP ITS WESTWARD SPREAD BY NOT MOVING WATER, PLANTS, OR ZEBRA MUSSELS FROM ONE WATERWAY TO ANOTHER.**

## The zebra mussel . .

- **can grow up to 2"** (5 cm) but is ordinarily about as big as your fingernail. (See photo on back panel.)
- **commonly has** alternating dark and light stripes.
- **produces young that are too small to see** but can be felt on your boat and found in plants that get tangled on your propeller and trailer.
- **as it grows larger**, can be seen attached, usually in clusters, to hard surfaces like water pipes and boats.
- **can be found hiding** in bilges, live wells and motors.

**Since their introduction** to the Great Lakes in 1986 in ships' ballast water, zebra mussels have quickly spread and are now found in at least twenty States and two Canadian Provinces.

### 1999 Map



**To prevent further spread** of zebra mussels, a comprehensive prevention partnership called the "The 100th Meridian Initiative" including State and Federal agencies, private industries, and user groups has been developed. Among other components of the Initiative, voluntary boat checks are available in the six States and Manitoba that straddle the 100th Meridian (100° longitude.) Contact your State resource agency about the 100th Meridian Initiative and local efforts to prevent the spread of zebra mussels by boats.

**The primary way** zebra mussels will spread westward is on trailered boats. Whether your boat has been in infested waters for one day— or one year—it could be carrying zebra mussels. A female can release up to one million eggs each season so transporting just one zebra mussel can spell trouble for western waters and your boat!



**As a general practice**, washing and scrubbing your boat and its equipment, and allowing it to completely dry between uses will prevent the spread of zebra mussels and plants.